Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Civic and national days of prayer have a long and venerable history in our constitutional republic, dating back to the First Continental Congress in 1775; and,

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence, our first statement as Americans of national purpose and identity, made "the laws of Nature and of Nature's God" the foundation of our United States of America, and asserted that people have inalienable rights that are God-given; and,

Whereas, The Supreme Court has affirmed the right of state legislatures to open their sessions with prayer, and the Supreme Court and the United States Congress themselves begin each day with prayer; and,

Whereas, In 1988, legislation setting aside the first Thursday in May in each year as a National Day of Prayer was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan; and,

Whereas, The National Day of Prayer is an opportunity for Americans of all faiths to join in united prayer to acknowledge our dependence on God, to give thanks for blessings received, to request healing for wounds endured, and to ask God to guide our leaders and bring wholeness to the United States and her citizens; and,

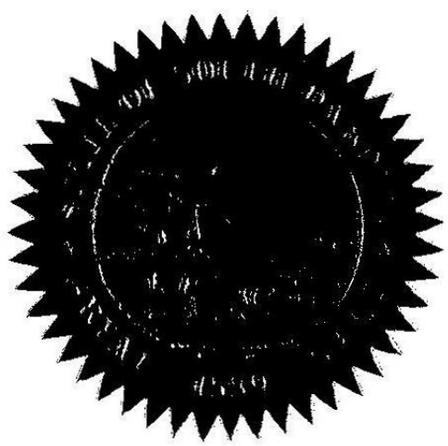
Whereas, It is fitting and proper to give thanks to God by observing a day of prayer in South Dakota when all may acknowledge our blessings and express gratitude for them, while recognizing the need for strengthening religious and moral values in our state and nation; and,

Whereas, The 2004 theme, "Let Freedom Ring" was chosen to reaffirm the importance of maintaining the moral underpinnings that have been fundamental to our society since America's inception; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2004, as

A DAY OF PRAYER

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Nineteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State